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Message to the Congress on Adding Russia to the Generalized System of Preferences

September 30, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

I am writing to inform you of my intent to add Russia to the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP program offers duty-free access to the U.S. market and is authorized by the Trade Act of 1974.

I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974. In light of these criteria, and particularly Russia's level of development and initiation of economic reforms, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Russia.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1993.

Proclamation 6600—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 1993

September 30, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Breast cancer will affect an estimated 182,000 women in 1993. It accounts for nearly one-third of all cancers diagnosed in women, making it one of the most serious health problems we face in America today. Each year, we designate one month to focus public attention on where we as a Nation stand with regard to this disease. This October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it is appropriate that we pause to consider, not only the strategies we have developed to combat breast cancer, but also the progress we have made in our fight, even as we acknowledge the high toll it takes on so many lives.

Breast cancer prevention research is playing an increasingly important role in our strategy to overcome this disease. Although we still have much to learn about what causes breast cancer, we do know that certain conditions or behaviors substantially increase a woman's risk of developing this disease. Some risks can be avoided, and researchers hope that others can be minimized. For this reason, the National Institutes of Health, through its component institutes—especially the National Cancer Institute—has launched important studies to assess the extent to which changes in diet and the use of the drug tamoxifen, which is effective in treating breast cancer, can prevent the development of this disease in women who are at increased risk.

The Woman's Health Trial is an exciting, innovative undertaking that aims to change dietary habits so that less fat is consumed and more fruits, vegetables, and fiber are added to our diet each day. There is some evidence to suggest a link between breast cancer and fat in the diet, at least for older women. What we hope to learn from this study is how best to help women change their eating habits and, thus, protect themselves, not only from breast cancer, but also from other cancers and conditions that are related to diet.

While there is much to be said about this disease, one important message must reach everyone: Women should form a partnership with their health care providers for the early detection of breast cancer, a key component of our nationwide program to reduce the toll of this disease. Research has shown that screening mammography, used together on a regular basis with a clinical breast exam and monthly breast self-examination, can reduce deaths from this disease by one-third or more for women over 50. I am pleased that the Federal Government has been a leader in authorizing payment for screening mammography for women enrolled in Federal health care programs. It is also reassuring that insurance companies have followed suit, recognizing that the benefits of early detection far outweigh its costs. As we look to create a health care system in America that works for all people, we must be certain that

we emphasize such preventative techniques as regular screening for breast cancer.

We face a major public education challenge in breast cancer awareness. Every woman must be reassured that she can become a partner with the health care system in ensuring that should she develop breast cancer, it will be found and treated early. Through education programs, women come to understand what actions they can take to prevent cancer. To be sure, success depends on providing the public with understandable, credible messages—but that is only half of the story. Unless every woman can be assured access to affordable medical care, including mammography and physicians' services to help in the detection of small tumors, public education campaigns will not be effective.

In spite of the best efforts of the health care community to encourage prevention and early detection, we know that thousands of women, nonetheless, will develop breast cancer, and many of them will die from it. Thus, the search to find effective treatments must continue, as must efforts to find effective therapies that have a minimal impact on the quality of a woman's life. We have come a long way from the time when extensive surgery was a woman's only treatment option for breast cancer. Lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy is a treatment approach that helps many women avoid disfiguring surgery. Many women now receive treatment with chemotherapy to shrink a tumor before surgery is done so that the breast can be spared; others receive chemotherapy after surgery to augment the primary treatment. While we still have much to learn, the rate at which our knowledge has increased is remarkable. We must build on past successes and continue our commitment to basic research. True progress will require that we not waver in this commitment.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 95, has designated October 1993 as "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1993 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I invite the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the appropriate officials of all other areas under the American flag to issue similar proclamations. I also ask health care professionals, private industry, community groups, insurance companies, and all other interested organizations and individual citizens to unite to publicly reaffirm our Nation's continuing commitment to research and public education on breast cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hands this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 5:10 p.m., September 30, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Proclamation 6601—Fire Prevention Week, 1993

September 30, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fire kills more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined, including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes. Unlike these natural disasters, many fire losses can be prevented. During this annual observance of Fire Prevention Week, we must make our fellow citizens more conscious of the dangers of fire and of what to do when fires occur.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Get Out, Stay Out: Your Fire Safe Response," drives home the importance of planning for fire emergencies before they occur. The United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association are working with the Nation's fire service to spread this important message. Time and time again, firefighters respond to fatal fires where residents didn't take the time to learn and practice alternate means of escape, or